Amendments to the Claims:

The following list of claims replaces all previous versions of claims presented in this application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of sustained-delivery of ~~an active drug~~ tazarotenic acid to a posterior part of an eye of a mammal to treat a disease or condition affecting said mammal, wherein said disease or condition can be treated by the action of ~~said active drug~~ tazarotenic acid upon said posterior part of the eye, comprising administering an effective amount of an ester prodrug of ~~the active drug~~ tazarotenic acid subconjunctivally or periocularly~~, and wherein the active drug is a retinoid and is more than about 10 times as active as the prodrug~~.

2. (Cancelled) The method of claim I wherein the active drug or the prodrug is cataractogenic.

3. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1 wherein the active drug is a carboxylic acid or carboxylic acid salt.

4-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1 wherein the active drug is tazarotenic acid.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the prodrug is tazarotene.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the prodrug is an ester of a phosphorous or sulfur-based acid.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the prodrug is contained in a polymeric microparticle system designed to enhance the sustained-delivery of said active drug.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said polymeric microparticle system is a poly(lactide-co-glycolide) microsphere suspension.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said posterior part of the eye comprises the uveal tract, vitreous, retina, choroid, optic nerve, or retinal pigmented epithelium.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said disease or condition is retinitis pigmentosa, proliferative vitreal retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic

retinopathy, diabetic macular edema, retinal detachment, retinal tear, uveitus, or cytomegalovirus retinitis.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the prodrug is administered via injection.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein administration of the prodrug is subconjunctival, schleral, supra-choroidal, sub-tenon, retrobulbar, or peribulbar.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein administration of the prodrug is subconjunctival.

17. (Cancelled) A method of treating a disease or condition, wherein treatment of said disease or condition is achieved by the action of an active drug on a posterior part of an eye of an affected mammal, comprising administering an effective amount of a carboxylic acid ester prodrug of the active drug subconjunctivally or periocularly via injection, wherein the prodrug is contained in a polymeric microparticle system designed to enhance the sustained-delivery of said active drug, and wherein the active drug is a retinoid and is more than about 10 times as active as the prodrug, and wherein the active drug is not a platelet activating factor antagonist.

18-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method of sustained-delivery of an active drug to the vitreous of the eye of a mammal to treat a disease or condition affecting said mammal, wherein said disease or condition can be treated by the action of said active drug, comprising administering an effective amount of an ester prodrug of the active drug subconjunctivally wherein the active drug is tazarotenic acid and said ester prodrug is tazarotene.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the prodrug is contained in a polymeric microparticle system designed to enhance the sustained-delivery of said active drug.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said polymeric microparticle system is a poly(lactide-co-glycolide) microsphere suspension.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said disease or condition is retinitis pigmentosa, proliferative vitreal retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, diabetic macular edema, retinal detachment, retinal tear, uveitus, or cytomegalovirus retinitis.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the prodrug is administered via injection.

26. (Withdrawn) A method of lowering the ratio of an ester prodrug to active drug in the eye as compared to when the prodrug is administered intraocularly or directly into the vitreous which comprises subconjunctival or periocular administering said ester prodrug into the eye.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26 wherein sustained delivery of therapeutically-effective concentrations of the active drug to the posterior parts of the eye is achieved with fewer side effects with a lower risk of toxicity associated with the prodrug.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26 wherein the prodrug is contained in a polymeric microparticle system designed to enhance the sustained-delivery of said active drug.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28 wherein said polymeric microparticle system is a poly(lactide-co-glycolide) microsphere suspension.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26 wherein said disease or condition is retinitis pigmentosa, proliferative vitreal retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, diabetic macular edema, retinal detachment, retinal tear, uveitus, or cytomegalovirus retinitis.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36 wherein the prodrug is administered via injection.